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P20416.A01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Thomas THORÖE SCHERB et al. Applicants: Applications Branch Not yet assigned Appln. No.: Concurrently herewith Filed MACHINE AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING A TISSUE WEB

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

For

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the specification, claims and abstract as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 55 (second occurrence) on page 29, lines 10 and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please enter the following new claim for consideration by the Examiner:

The process of claim 54, wherein the blowing elment is positioned inside a loop of the outer belt in the area of the separation point.---

REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the foregoing amendment prior to examination of the above-identified patent application.

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Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

> Respectfully submitted, Thomas THORÖE SCHERB et al.

Neil F Greenblum Reg. No. 28,394

January 26, 2001 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1941 Roland Clarke Place Reston, VA 20191 (703) 716-1191